

Cronulla Crays continue to dominate the competitive scene, firstly winning the Four-Way Carnival with a crushing 73 point victory over second placed Wanda. We were successful in winning the Cronulla Carnival and nine Cronulla members were selected to represent Sydney Branch to compete at the Branch Carnival held at Shelly Beach and which Sydney Branch won convincingly. Congratulations to Mark Simpson who won nomination as "Lifesaver of the Year" to represent the Sydney Branch at the State Championships. At the Wollongong Carnival, Cronulla was also victorious and again won by a convincing margin, finishing with 68 points ahead of second placed North Cronulla on 32 points. Although the North Narrabeen Nipperthon Carnival was attended by only a small number of our children, they still managed to win a fibreglass Nipper Board for our Club. Cronulla was victorious at the Sydney Branch Carnival, winning by a huge 200 points margin.

The big one – the State Championships, was held in very trying conditions. The carnival was split for the first two days with all water events at Yarra Bay. Fortunately, the last day of competition was back at South Maroubra. Over the first two days we seemed to be struggling, with disqualifications and dropped batons and went into the last day with only a 1½ point lead but, to the credit of the mighty Cronulla Nippers, we won nearly every final and went on to win the Championships by a massive 81.5 points ahead of second placed Swansea Belmont. Congratulations boys and girls.

I thank Warren Scanlon for being thrown in the deep end and accepting the difficult job of Gear Steward. Warren did a good job and was well supported by all the Age Managers who helped him set up the beach and water areas. This year we purchased seven new racing foamies, six new fibreglass surf boards and two second-hand Malibus for water safety. In addition, Sydney Airports donated a rescue board as part of their sponsorship for the Four-Way Carnival. Warren has given a lot of his time during the season and we are grateful to Warren and his wife Chris, for towing the board trailer back and forth to carnivals.

Awards Officer Rob Short, had a busy season arranging important skills days, recruiting and co-ordinating experienced senior club members to pass on their knowledge about Surf Lifesaving and the skills required for competing. This part of our activities is the most important part of the Junior Surf Lifesaving Movement in Nippers and it is the reason why Surf Lifesaving exists. Congratulations and thanks Rob, for your involvement in the education process.

Club Captains Adam Hartup and Sarah Sowter performed their duties with confidence and pride. It is very honourable to represent your Club as Club Captain and I am sure it will in time prove to be a great character building experience, one they will both reflect on in future years. Well done Adam and Sarah. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the under-14s all the best as they move forward to the Cadets. Good luck, and enjoy yourselves.

In conclusion, I must say that my first year as Chairperson has been exciting, stressful, challenging, rewarding and enjoyable. I thank the executive for their support, the General Committee for their hard work and I am very proud to be a member of the most envied Club in the country. I would like to thank senior club members Bill Eady, John Bentley and Ken English for their support and guidance during the season and I am sure the relations between the Senior and Junior Activities Groups will continue to remain strong. We have had a great season and I thank everyone involved. I look forward to seeing everyone back next year, when we will do it all again. Thank you.

Darryl Ward, Chairperson.

Shark Island Swim

The 11th Shark Island Swim was proudly sponsored by Frank Doran Financial Services and Radio Station 2KY 1017 and was once again a great success with 558 swimmers competing.

Unfortunately the weather was once again against the Organising Committee with a large choppy swell, a strong rip on the southern end of the beach and a good sized wave breaking on to a large bank on the northern end of the beach.

With the safety of the slower swimmers a concern to the water safety co-ordinator, Graham Bruce, he decided, after discussion with the water safety committee, to cancel the swim around Shark Island. It was then decided to set a shortened triangular course off the beach so that the water safety people could safely look after all swimmers. It was a credit to Phil Hamilton who organised IRBs, skis, boards, surfboats and Offshore Rescue Boat. The water safety was a credit to our Club and we have received many letters from swimmers saying that they felt very safe with the amount of water safety people around the course and the confidence it gave many swimmers to complete the course. The Shark Island Swim Committee extends its thanks to all water safety members who helped out on the day.

Thanks also go to the many Club members who helped out on this day, particularly to the members who organised the start and finish area, prepaid entries and late entries on the morning of the swim. There were 280 swimmers entered on the day. Thanks go to Chris Stephenson and his helpers for compiling all entries onto the computers. Thanks to the sellers of t-shirts and caps and also to the members who helped to sell food and drinks to the swimmers and to the many people who watched the swim. Congratulations to club member Nathan Smith on a fine effort winning his first Shark Island Swim.

Special thanks to our major sponsor, Frank Doran, for his \$5,000.00 sponsorship. Frank is also a member of the swim committee and also organised a \$1,000.00 insurance bond which was won by a lucky swimmer. Frank also presented a t-shirt to all Club members who helped out on the morning of the swim. Thanks also to Eyeline for their sponsorship of swim caps for all swimmers, to Legal & General for their sponsorship of \$1,000.00 insurance bond, to Les Mead from 2KY 1017 for his continued help and to Graham Bowen and the Sutherland United Services Club for their continued support. Also thanks to Martin Johnson, our commentator and M.C. Martin certainly helps to make the day enjoyable with his commentary and his interviews.

Thanks to Bill Eady for his help in taking entries and enquiries and for the financial aspect of the swim, to Geoff Forshaw for surveying the swim course, to Robyn Jordan our Doctor and Ken English our Referee. Thanks also to Chris Stephenson, Ron Smith and Bill Stafford from Wanda SLSC for their continued help in organising the swim.

I would personally like to thank the Shark Island Swim Committee and all members and parents who helped on the day. Your support in helping to run the swim is much appreciated. The swim was once again a financial success.

Thanks to the Shark Island Swim Committee: Bruce Breadner, Graham Bruce, Frank Doran, Sue Ezzy, Phil Hamilton, Allan Hanson, Greg Hewett, Kelly Hollingdale, John Hollingdale (Convenor), Kevin Maughan, Ken O'Donnell, David Piggott, Ron Smith, Bill Stafford, Chris Stephenson and John Wilson.

John Hollingdale, Convenor.